

**GOVERNOR'S P-20 COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
General Meeting – September 30, 2010  
10:00 A.M.**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
Grand Canyon Room  
Phoenix, AZ

**Members Present:** Dr. Carol Peck, Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Dr. Pauline Begay, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne, Dean Gray, Dr. Marv Lamer (telephonic), Paul Luna, LaVelle McCoy, Colleen Niccum, Dr. April Osborn, DeAnna Rowe, Vince Yanez, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

**Members Absent:** Dr. Tom Anderes, Rhian Evans Allvin, Dr. Michael Kearns, and Lisa Graham Keegan

**Guests:** Eileen Klein, Dr. Michael Cowan, Rebecca Gau, Jacob Moore, and Dr. Paul Koehler

**Staff Present:** Debra Raeder-Gay and Karla Phillips

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, and Objectives**

Dr. Carol Peck called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed Council members and guests. Dr. Peck indicated that she was pleased that the Governor would be joining the meeting shortly to address the Council and recognize accomplishments on the Round 2 Race to the Top application. Dr. Peck stated that it was anticipated that Dr. Tom Anderes, the new President of the Arizona Board of Regents, would be joining the meeting telephonically, and welcomed him as the newest member of the Council. It was noted that a representative for Dr. Anderes was on the phone. Also joining the meeting by the way of telephone was Dr. Marv Lamer from Cottonwood. Council members then introduced themselves.

Dr. Peck welcomed and introduced the members of Arizona Race to the Top presentation team: Eileen Klein, Governor Brewer's Chief of Staff; Dr. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent, Arizona Department of Education; Jacob Moore, Managing Partner, Generation 7 Strategic Partners, and Current member and Past President of the State Board of Education; Dr. Michael Cowan, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools; Vince Yanez, Executive Director, State Board of Education; and Rebecca Gau, Vice President, Arizona Charter Schools Association.

Dr. Peck stated that the team members did an outstanding job in Washington, D.C. clarifying the plan and raising Arizona's score by 20 points bringing the application within 5 points of being a winner. Dr. Peck reminded the Council that during the development of this plan, Governor Brewer directed that, regardless of the outcome of RTTT funding, this plan would serve as Arizona's roadmap for education reform; that while our application was not funded, the plan itself demonstrates that we are not afraid to take on bold reforms; and that due to the hard work of the Council, task forces, key stakeholders from around the state, the Department of Education,

and Dr. Koehler and his team, a plan was developed that has been recognized for its merits at the national level.

Dr. Peck provided an overview of the meeting:

- View the presentation made by the team in Washington, D.C.
- Engage the team in a Q&A session.
- Discuss next steps for moving the plan forward.
- Update from Cheryl Lebo, Associate Superintendent of Standards & Assessment with the Arizona Department of Education, on the outcome of the RTTT Assessment Competition.

Dr. Peck advised the public that, if they wished to address the Council, a “request to speak” form needed to be submitted to staff in order to be recognized during the Call to the Public portion of the meeting.

## **2. Approval of Council Minutes**

Dr. Carol Peck called for an approval of the May 13, 2010 Council minutes. Dr. Jim Zaharis motioned that the minutes be approved. Vince Yanez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Following approval of the minutes, at approximately 10:17 a.m., Dr. Peck called for a brief recess as the Governor would be joining the meeting very shortly.

## **3. Remarks from the Governor**

Dr. Peck reconvened the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m. Dr. Peck thanked Governor Brewer for her continued support and leadership for education reform stating that under the Governor’s leadership, a number of critical education reform proposals have been developed, and that the RTTT application united diverse and often divided stakeholders from across the state on an education blueprint.

Governor Brewer greeted the Council and guests thanking everyone for their hard work to create the Race to the Top application, which now serves as Arizona’s plan to improve the education continuum. The Governor stated that the plan is a meaningful, collaborative, and aggressive education reform plan; that we have charted the right course for our children; and that even though we did not receive funding we cannot abandon it now. The Governor stated that to implement the initiatives of the plan would require that we be more innovative in the use of state funds, and that we must continue to work hard to align the work of education grant recipients, foundations, and the business community with the plan to ensure it is the collective roadmap for continued education reform.

The Governor charged the P-20 Coordinating Council with the task of forging ahead and to help provide oversight and accountability for implementation of this reform plan starting with prioritization. The Governor stated that the two common themes found throughout the plan are the need for strong data systems and training for teachers and principals. Without these it will be very difficult to implement new standards, assessments, teacher evaluations or turn around struggling schools. The Governor asked the Council and its task forces to review the plan and prioritize or reorder the tasks laid out with these overarching goals in mind. Governor Brewer called for a preliminary report with recommendations by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Governor Brewer then recognized the effort and hard work of those who have helped develop and present the plan. The Governor thanked the Council members and the chairs of each of the task forces for their leadership, knowledge and expertise. The Governor indicated that certificates of appreciation had been provided to the Council members and task force chairs. The Governor recognized and provided each member of the presentation team with certificates of appreciation.

The Governor also thanked the following persons for their work and support of the plan: Dr. Paul Koehler and the team from the WestEd Policy Center; Jaime Molera; Diane McCarthy; Dr. Jim Zaharis; Superintendent Tom Horne, Dr. Margaret Dugan, Dr. Karen Butterfield, the leadership team at the Arizona Department of Education; the State Board of Education under the current leadership of Dr. Vicki Balentine and formerly under Jacob Moore; Dr. Deb Duvall, and individual members of the Governor's staff.

#### **4. Review and Discussion: Race to the Top**

Dr. Peck indicated that the Council packet contained a transcription of the questions that the team was asked to address following their presentation in Washington, D.C., and that the questions and answer session could be viewed in its entirety on the U.S. DOE website.

Dr. Peck then turned the discussion over to Eileen Klein and Dr. Paul Koehler.

Ms. Klein thanked everyone who helped prepare the team for the D.C. presentation. She also thanked the team again for their hard work in preparing and delivering the presentation, indicating the application evaluators could truly understand Arizona's story through the team's effort. Dr. Koehler also thanked everyone involved in the preparation process, particularly the Governor's Office of Economic Recovery. Dr. Koehler indicated that the process was extremely competitive and that Arizona gained 20.4 points as a direct result of the presentation and the clarification of the plan's initiatives particularly related to several specific areas: the state's effort to align economic development with education as the driver to a trained and skilled workforce; identifying very lofty, but attainable goals such as improving the graduation rate for all students; and identifying key transition points for ensuring accountability. Following these remarks, the Council viewed the 30-minute presentation.

Following the presentation, the Council engaged in conversation with the team. Dr. Zaharis expressed a fear [due to funding] that we won't be able to implement all of the initiatives. Ms. Klein responded that is why the Governor, in her remarks, requested that the task forces

prioritize the initiatives and that the foundational goals, such as the data warehouse, need to be at the top of the list. Additionally, we need to hear from the Department of Education on their plans to move forward. The work plan/timeline needs to be identified and put into place as soon as possible. Dr. Zaharis concurred indicating that this is an opportunity for partnerships to move forward to assist with our goals. Dr. Koehler indicated that in working with five other western states who were RTTT finalists, including Arizona, they had prepared a paper and approached Secretary Duncan to ascertain whether other assistance could be found to help these states. Secretary Duncan is evaluating how he can assist in this regard. Ms. Klein stated that this is a tremendous opportunity for expanding partnerships with businesses and foundations, and innovations with current budgets would play such an important role in implementation. Jacob Moore indicated that there may be opportunities for additional grants with the U.S. Department of Education and others to help fund specific projects and that the challenge, while possible, is to find matching dollars and work within our current budget situation. Dr. Koehler indicated it was imperative to immediately develop an implementation plan, with timeline, or the state would lose valuable momentum in effecting rapid implementation.

Following the presentation and discussion with the presentation team, Dr. Peck outlined the next steps that she had ascertained from the Governor's remarks and following discussion on the Race to the Top application.

- Time to transition from referring to the plan as our Race to the Top application and to start referring to it as our state's reform plan. Staff is directed to bring back a strategy for renaming the plan at the Council's next meeting.
- Consider utilizing a website to track our progress and ask staff to provide an update on this request at the next meeting.
- Activate the task forces to get back to work to prioritize initiatives in the plan. This may require some reshaping of task force membership as well as the direction of the work of our task forces since we are no longer in the planning stage but beginning the implementation stage.
- Request the task force chairs report back at the next meeting of the Council on recommendations that emerged in their groups and have the P-20 Council members discuss and approve them as appropriate.
- Identify districts/schools, out of those who signed on to RTTT, who want to play leadership roles in partnership with the state and continue on with this work.

Dr. Peck also indicated that she will be working with the Governor to identify membership for a task force for the Education of Military Children stating that this task force will be charged with: addressing the mobility of military children and ensuring that this mobility does not detract from their education; and to work with other states to ensure the students aren't penalized for each state having different education requirements.

## **5. Review and Discussion: RTTT Common Assessment Competition**

Cheryl Lebo, Associate Superintendent of Standards & Assessment with the Arizona Department of Education, provided a review and update on the Race to the Top Common Assessment Competition reminding the Council that Arizona is currently a member of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) Consortium along with 26 other states. Arizona, with the leadership of ADE and at the request of the Council, now serves as a governing state for the Consortium. In September, the U.S. Department of Education awarded two grants, with one of the grants going to the PARCC. The Consortium now has four years to develop an assessment system, which will be administered in 2014-2015. Ms. Lebo reviewed with the Council the theories of action for: assessment system design, key stakeholders, and intended outcomes. Ms. Lebo also discussed the role of higher education in the process indicating that all 10 community college districts and the three state universities have indicated their commitment to this project and the goal that the implementation of the new college-ready high school assessments serve as valid placement instruments for credit-bearing courses.

Following the presentation, Ms. Lebo engaged in discussion with the Council. The Council was in consensus that there needed to be much more work to raise awareness of this effort and intended outcomes. Vince Yanez stated that there were many elements moving forward including the implementation of the common core standards, Move on When Ready, etc., which have been initiated as part of this process and the need to ensure that schools and teachers can be successful when the assessment is implemented. Paul Luna indicated the need for a framework from which we can work and the need to be proactive in moving the state forward. Dr. Zaharis stated the need to have a laser-like focus and to be absolutely clear on what the Council needs to do. Dr. Zaharis expressed concern regarding the Superintendent candidates and their stance on these initiatives. Brief discussion on whether this assessment would be high stakes. Ms. Lebo indicated that states can identify a cut score to serve as high stakes; the Consortium will determine a uniform cut score for college readiness. Dr. Zaharis also questioned how technical and community colleges are involved in the process. Ms. Lebo indicated she would bring back more detail regarding technical colleges.

## **6. Comments from the Council**

Dr. Carol Peck indicated that this agenda item was an opportunity for Council members to engage in additional discussion or comments and asked if there were any additional suggestions or ideas anyone wanted to share. The Council had no additional comments.

## **7. Call to the Public**

Dr. Carol Peck made a call to the public. There were no requests to address the Council.

## **8. Adjourn**

Dr. Peck thanked the Council members for their attendance at today's meeting. There being no further business before the Council, Dr. Karen Butterfield motioned, and Dr. Linda Arzoumanian seconded, a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.